HAY SPREADING APPARATUS

Abstract of the Disclosure

A hay spreading apparatus is particularly adaptable for spreading round bales of hay and includes a freely-rotating roller drum mounted on a fixed or adjustable boom connected to the front or rear end of a tractor, to facilitate pushing a bale of hay and spreading the hay over a selected area of ground. In a first preferred embodiment a fixed boom includes a fixed boom frame rotatably mounting a drum spindle extending through the center of a roller drum. The fixed boom also typically includes a pair of fixed boom connectors extending from the fixed boom frame to the tractor frame to suspend the roller drum above the ground. In another preferred embodiment of the invention an adjustable boom typically includes a pair of parallel boom connectors pivotally attached to the tractor frame and to an adjustable boom frame rotatably carrying a roller drum by means of a drum spindle. A hydraulic cylinder and piston are pivotally secured to the tractor frame and the adjustable boom frame, respectively, for adjusting the adjustable boom frame and the roller drum with respect to the ground. In both the fixed and the adjustable boom embodiments the tractor is maneuvered to position the roller drum against a hay bale and the tractor is operated to contact the roller drum with the bale and facilitate rotation of the roller drum against the hay bale and unrolling of the respective layers of hay or breaking up the bale as the bale is pushed along the ground.